

OLD TIMES RECALLED.

Charley Howard, the Old-Time Negro Minstrel, a Wheeling Boy

TALKS ABOUT HIS STAGE CAREER

Which Opened in the Old City Hall, Now the Second Ward Market House—Those Old Days and These in the Show Business Contrasted. Some Famous Things in His History—The Greatest Old Negro Declinator.

Charley Howard, the old time negro impersonator now playing the star part in "The South before the War," has had an unusually long and eventful career on the stage and as he is a native of Wheeling, spent his boyhood here and here made his first appearance on any stage, the facts of his history have peculiar interest for Wheeling people.

Mr. Howard was one of six children of a former "town crier" of Wheeling. Five of them still live, Mrs. James Fliton, of Bellaire, and Mrs. Gillespie, of this city, being his sisters, and he has a brother, superintendent of a gas works in Ohio and another in business in Australia.

Yesterday an INTELLIGENCER reporter called at Mr. Howard's boarding place, on Main street, near Tenth, and had an interesting chat about old times in Wheeling and in his business. What he has not known about minstrelsy and negro delineation is not of much interest, as he has been in nearly every successful company since the 'fifties. He is still conceded to be the best impersonator in the country of old negro men.

Mr. Howard made his first appearance on any stage in 1847, in the old "city hall," now the second ward market hall. He was but a boy. Joe, Dick and Sam Sweeney had a company of six, doing negro minstrel business over the country. A young fellow named Yancey, afterward well known here as "Capt." Yancey and T. Tommy Cockayne, "Bilder," made up the sextette. Poor Tommy is still here, but a wreck of his former self.

In those days there were no companies traveling in special cars and carrying their own scenery. Such a combination as "The South before the War" would have simply paralyzed the country, literally speaking.

The company made its first "tour" in a skiff, starting from Wheeling. The first stand was at Gravo Creek (now Moundsville). There were then few halls in the small towns, and the custom was to get the dining rooms in the "livery"—this was before the hotel was invented—put two large tables together for a stage, and give the performances. For front seats "two bits" were charged, and for general admission one bit, or 12 1/2 cents.

Minstrels then were not much like minstrels now. There were no bones. A horse's jaw bone and a hard piece of wood made a racket somewhat like a castanet, and in the hands of a skillful performer not without a rude rhythm. The banjo was a home-made affair of four strings. After this five were put on, but no banjos could be bought. Dan Rice, afterwards the famous circus man, was a hostler for Mr. John McCortney, who had a stable and yard where Pollock's flour mill is now.

Mr. Howard saw Junius Brutus Booth play Shakespearean tragedy in that same old market hall afterward! He saw John Wilkes Booth, and pronounces him a better actor than either his father or his brother, Edwin, though he thinks he was insane.

Young Howard rose rapidly as a negro impersonator. In 1852 Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which created a furor historic ever since. In 1853 Mr. Howard wrote a one-act sketch based on the novel, and appeared in it. A comedy was given, followed by this sketch, and Mrs. Stowe saw it and was so favorably impressed that she had him expand it. After this it was rewritten and enlarged many times, but Charley Howard remained for years the representative impersonator of Uncle Tom in the land. Recently he has refused to appear in "fake" comedies.

When President Lincoln issued his call for men for the three months' service, Mr. Howard responded promptly. After that term was done, he enlisted in Carlin's battery and served until he was detached for scout duty. In his minstrel days he had made the tour through the Valley of Virginia afoot time and again, and knew every foot of the way. For this reason he was made chief of scouts for the division in the field. He was shot and disabled, and now draws a pension.

Joseph K. Emmet was playing the snare drum in a St. Louis theatre when Mr. Howard played an engagement there. Emmet's right name was Joe Kanfraw. Howard took charge of a theatre in Cincinnati, and Emmet insisted on going with him, and was finally permitted. He procured a "Dutch" wardrobe on the sly, and finally Mr. Howard let him appear at a benefit. After that he rose, rapidly if not steadily.

Dennan Thompson once played for Howard at \$25 a week. He was doing Joshua Whitcomb in a sketch, the countryman coming in and viewing a very loud ballet. Out of this was evolved the play "Joshua Whitcomb."

Stephen C. Foster, of Pittsburgh, wrote "Old Black Joe" for Howard. Will S. Hays, of Louisville, wrote "The Little Old Log Cabin in the Lane" for him. He is himself the author of "The Days When I was Young," "I Couldn't Stay Away," "Where the Cotton Blossoms Grow," and "Where the Old Man Laid Away." All of these songs he has made famous.

In 1868 Howard wrote "Old Eph's Dream of Home," which expanded and rewritten in several acts instead of one is the piece now being given at the Grand by Whallon & Martell's company under the title of "The South Before the War," with old Charley Howard as the star. Next year it is the intention to take the company to England, and produce the piece all over Europe. Howard has already made several tours in Europe, and has also appeared in all the cities of Australia.

Mr. Howard discourages young people from going on the stage. He says it is a hard life, last to be chosen of all careers, but from the way he has stuck to it and the success of his career he offers a stronger encouragement to ambition than anything he can say to the contrary.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

Matters of Minor Moment in and about the City.

MATINEE at the Grand to-day. The Grand this evening—"South Before the War."

DAVE GARTLEY was run in yesterday by Officer West on a plain drunk charge.

The accident to John Auth, the La-Belle mill workman, will lay him up for some time.

The Clay school entertainment will be repeated this evening, commencing at 7:30 o'clock.

PREACHING Sabbath morning and evening at the North street M. E. church by the new pastor.

The Cyclers will give their farewell ball of the season April 3, at the Cyclers' hall, South Side. It bids fair to be a great success.

OFFICER DAN O'BRIEN wore a broad smile yesterday. It was St. Patrick's day, and he celebrated by having a son born, whom he called Patrick Grover O'Brien.

In the police court yesterday Joe Nico was dismissed, Isaac Thompson was fined \$1 and costs, and George Bruner, of the Island, \$10 and costs for disorderly conduct.

The Elks held a big rehearsal at the Opera House last evening of their coming minstrel show. Everything indicates that the entertainment will be the most successful ever given by the order.

Rev. A. J. Inry, pastor of the Baptist church, will address the young men's meeting at the Young Men's Christian Association hall to-morrow afternoon at 4 o'clock. All men are invited to attend.

USUAL interest is manifested in the engagement at the Opera House Monday evening of "Mr. Wilkinson's Widows." The play's fame has preceded it here, and it will no doubt draw a large audience.

YESTERDAY the last will and testament of Harry W. List was admitted to probate and ordered to be recorded. D. C. List is named as executor. One-third of his property is left to his wife and the remainder to his two children.

"The South before the War" had another immense house at the Grand last night and everybody was delighted. It will be repeated at the matinee this afternoon and for the last time this evening. It is an unique and enjoyable performance.

The Hypatia Literary Society, of Mrs. Hart's school for girls, had an unusually interesting meeting yesterday afternoon. After the business meeting there was a delightful session, at which the principal entertained the young ladies.

The new chapel of the Episcopal congregation at Elm Grove, known as St. Paul's, will be opened on Sunday. The services will begin on the arrival of the 3 o'clock motor from Wheeling. Rev. Dr. Swope will preach, and the choir of St. Matthew's church will sing.

The young men's meeting at the Young Men's Christian Association to-night will be addressed by Rev. T. Hasegawa, a native of Japan. The address will be illustrated by stereoscopic views of the customs and scenery of his country. The meeting is free to all young men.

NOTES ON NAVIGATION.

Stage of Water and Movements of Boats.

The River Interests.

The marks on the wharf show 17 feet 2 inches in the channel and falling.

The only packet to-day is the Iron Queen, for Cincinnati at 8 a. m.

Yesterday's arrivals and departures were Ben Hur, for Parkersburg, 11:30 a. m., Congo, for Pittsburgh, 4:30 p. m., Courier, for Pittsburgh, 11 p. m.

To-morrow the following leave for Pittsburgh: Ben Hur, 4 a. m., Lizzie Bay, 5 a. m., and Keystone State, 8 a. m.; the Congo departs for Cincinnati at 8 a. m.; Courier for Parkersburg, 1 p. m.

Considerable excitement was raised on the Bellaire packet R. E. Phillips yesterday noon while on the way to the city by the bursting of the mud drums. The accident occurred opposite the Belmont mill landing, creating big excitement among the passengers, of which there was a number on board. The immense volume of steam that poured out and enveloped the boat almost created a panic. The boat was immediately run to the landing, where the passengers disembarked. Shortly after the Lizzie Townsend towed the boat up to the wharf. It will be several days before the packet will start to make its regular trips, on account of the repairs necessary to be made on the boiler. There was no danger by the accident beyond the panic among the passengers.

Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup cures coughs and colds quicker than any other remedy, because it combines the lung-healing quality of the pinetree with other valuable medicines. Sold by all dealers on a guarantee of satisfaction.

Fine fancy colored Silk Umbrellas, great bargains, at I. G. Dillon & Co's.

Good Family Medicines Hood's Sarsaparilla and Hood's Pills.

"I regard Hood's Sarsaparilla and Hood's Pills, the very best family medicines, and we are never without them. I have always been a delicate woman."

A Delicate Woman and began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla three years ago for that tired feeling. It built me up so quickly and so well that I feel like a different woman and have always had great faith in it. I give it to my children whenever they seem troubled with their blood, and it does them good. My little boy likes it so well he cries for it. I cannot find words to tell how highly I prize it. We use Hood's Pills in the family and they are a credit to builder and owner.

Act Like a Charm I take pleasure in recommending these medicines to all my friends, for I believe if people

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ANNUAL STATEMENT

OF THE

Receipts and Expenditures

OF THE

CITY OF WHEELING, W. Va.,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1892.

Compiled by THOMAS F. THONER, City Clerk.

EXPENDITURES, 1892.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS CONTINGENT FUND.

Street repairs \$11,173 42

Street cleaning 5,712 25

Advertising and printing 241 36

Public works 477 71

Sewer repairs 996 69

F. L. Hoge, estimates 64 00

F. L. Hoge, surveying 284 36

John H. Clark, estimating 782 42

John H. Clark, superintending of streets 807 00

Paving approaches to Chapline and Eoff street bridges 1,000 00

Salary H. P. W. 930 52

Paving and curbing North Hiram street 1,569 81

Clearing dirt from the mouth of creek 185 08

Paving Eoff street between sixteenth and seventeenth streets 1,105 08

Stone wall, mouth of alley next Har's warehouse 430 00

Repairs Ward street, run, laying bridge 794 17

Paving Market alley 733 72

Paving south street 927 53

Paving alley Twenty-seven 254 00

Paving north street from private alley to creek 232 64

Thirty-third street improvement, between Eoff and Chapline streets 615 25

Sewer corner Main and sixteenth streets 138 00

Paving alley B from Twelfth street to Alley 9 711 30—\$30,332 49

R. P. W. GENERAL FUND.

Paving north of Johnathan's Baying 1,584 91

New sewer in Alley B and Alley 9 98 49

Wetzel street improvement 679 62—\$2,642 83

R. P. W. TEN CENT LEVY.

Paving North Hiram street 2,675 66

Eleventh street sewer, between Baltimore and Elizabeth streets 732 23

Warren street improvement 1,175 08

Paving McClellan street, from Eoff street to creek 166 89

Sewer in alley between Elliott and Elizabeth streets 501 01

Sewer on Eleventh street 450 00

Sewer in Alley 15 400 00

Sewer in Alley F, between Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth streets 280 00

Sewer in Alley G, between Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth streets 301 00

Alley A improvement, between Twenty-second and Twenty-third streets 1,200 00

Alley B improvement, from Main street to West streets 610 00

Sewer in Twenty-seventh street from Alley D to Jacob street 389 50

Sewer in Alley E, between Fourteenth and Forty-first streets 400 00

Sewer in Alley F, between Forty-fifth and Forty-eighth streets 130 13

Sewer in Alley G, between Forty-fifth and Forty-eighth streets 160 00

Sewer in Alley H, between Forty-fifth and Forty-eighth streets 280 49

Sewer in Jacob street, between Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth streets 171 00

Alley A improvement, from Third street to Alley 1 666 00

Alley B improvement, from Main street to West streets 1,400 00

Alley C improvement, from Main street to West streets 709 00

Sewer in Alley F, south of Thirty-sixth street 100 03

Grading Alley I, between Pierce and Walnut streets 192 11

Alley J improvement, from Wood street to Alley 4 73 00

Alley K improvement, from Twenty-second to Twenty-third 619 47

Breaker at Fifth and Main streets 99 00

Breaker at Fourth and Main streets 100 00

Alley L improvement, from Wood street to Alley 4 73 00

Opening up Alley B, from Alley 4 to Eighth street 500 00

Wilson street improvement 400 00

Catch basin Thirty-first street 292 66

Catch basin Seventy-first street 10 00

Sewer in Alley G, from Thirty-ninth street to Alley 21 421 00

Paving sidewalk between Twenty-second and Thirty-third streets 80 00

Catch basin Sixth street 101 00

Alley M improvement, from Wood street to Alley 4 73 00

Alley N improvement, from Main street to Alley A 575 00

North Front street, new curbing 300 00

Iron fence on North Main street, stone wall 497 94

Oil Levee, Twenty-fourth street, between Eoff and Jacob streets 130 03

New curbing Woods street, between Thirty-ninth and Forty-first streets 490 00

Twenty-third street improvement, between Eoff and Charles streets 98 64

Elizabeth and Wetzel street improvement 920 78

Alley O improvement, from Wood street to Alley 4 73 00

New curbing on Eoff street, between Forty-third and Forty-fourth streets 150 00

New curbing on Thirty-seventh street, between Jacob and Woods streets 93 26

Brick crossing, Market street 300 00

New curbing on Zane street 180 00

New curbing on West street 29 76—\$26,468 23

CEMETERIES.

Coal 53 02

Hardware 8 00

Miscellaneous 7 05

Plumbing 192 28

Premium on fire insurance 7 02

Tinwork 75 00

Telephone 4 25

Dent, C. H., labor 260 20

Port, W. K., salary as Sexton 603 00—\$1,116 70

CITY PRISON.

Bread 286 06

Coal 55 05

Drugs 44 50

Gasoline 18 75

Oil 288 10

Hardware 3 21

Meat 318 40

Milk 4 80

Olives 15 00

Natural gas 26 45

Powder 42 85

Repairs 59 42

Robbery 48 00

Auth, John, guard 480 00

Carabauer, H., guard 240 00

Crawford, S., guard 480 00

Hunt, James A., cook 480 00

Rodenbaugh, George, superintendent 720 00—\$3,768 99

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

Advertising and printing 1,447 25

City vs. H. Reed 68 74

City's portion of Col. H. Reed 60 00

Commissioners of compromise loan 100 00

Commissioners of electric light loan 114 00

Commissioners of 1887 loan 175 17

Commissioners of 1888 loan 100 62

Commissioners of 1889 loan 100 62

Election books, ballot boxes, tables, etc 549 60

Equalization and Appeals, Board of 1,234 00

Gavin, Mary, damages 120 00

Hill, George, judge of police court 250 00

Handman, J. R., listing voters and extra work 159 29

Hoge, F. L., attending committee meetings, surveying, giving grades, etc 561 00

Hook, George, abstracts 125 00

Interest on orders 1,300 00

Melvin, T., legal services 125 00

Miscellaneous 114 78

Mitchell, J. W., costs in circuit court 105 90

Morris, Eugene, bills contracted for during the time he was in the jail 459 53

New ordinance books, compiling, printing and binding 2,675 00

Injured fireman: Morris, Wilson \$700, Henry \$750 and John \$800 2,250 00

Rent of property corner sixteenth and Main streets 500 00

Repairs to stairway in public building 528 17

Stationery 70 29

St. Mary's damages 25 00

Telephone 24 00

Trustees St. Paul's church, Eighth ward clock repairs 50 00

Water marks on Market street bridge, over creek 250 00

White, J. A., refunds on dogs and suits worn off 25 00

White, J. A., refunds on dogs and suits worn off 25 00

Woelber, F. A., Jr., commissions on city property collections 28 34

Woelber, F. A., Jr., swearing city collector to his returns 32 00

Yahn, Joseph, listing voters and extra work 158 24—\$11,560 37

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Advertising and printing 11 65

Bus hire 42 45

Coal 3 50

Drugs 39 53

Freight 178 48

Feed 230 25

Hay 732 22

Hardware 42 27